Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) ~~In a communication system having a sending station for sending communication data upon a communication channel susceptible to distortion, an improvement of apparatus for placing the communication data in a form to facilitate the communication thereof upon the communication channel, said~~ An apparatus comprising:

a first mapper adapted to receive first representations of a first portion of ~~the~~ communication data, said first mapper for mapping the first representations of the first portion of the communication data into first mapped values according to a first mapping scheme; and

a second mapper adapted to receive second representations of a second portion of the communication data, said second mapper for mapping the second representations of the communication data into second mapped values according to a second mapping scheme, the second mapping scheme exhibiting a mapping property that differs with the first mapping scheme,

wherein the first mapper transmits the first mapped values to a first antenna transducer among a plurality of antenna transducers and wherein the second mapper transmits the second mapped values to a second antenna transducer among the plurality of antenna transducers, the first and second antenna transducers receive and transduce only the first mapped values and the second mapped values, respectively, into electromagnetic form for communication upon ~~the~~a communication channel.

2.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a first encoder adapted to receive the first portion of the communication data, said first encoder for encoding the first portion of the communication data according to a first encoding techniques and wherein the first representations of the first portion of the communication data to which said first mapper is adapted to receive comprise first-encoded values formed by said first encoder.

3.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second encoder adapted to receive the second portion of the communication data, said second encoder for encoding the second portion of the communication data according to a second encoding technique and

wherein the second representations of the second portion of the communication data to which said second mapper is adapted to receive comprise second-encoded values formed by said second encoder.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first mapped values into which said first mapper maps the first representations of the first portion of the communication data comprise a first set of mapped values, wherein the second mapped values into which said second mapper maps the second representations of the second portion of the communication data comprise a second set of mapped values, elements of the first set of mapped values differing in value with elements of the second set of mapped values.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the first set of mapped values and the second set of mapped values formed by said first mapper and said second mapper, respectively, are formed of mutually-exclusive elements.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the mapping property exhibited by the second mapping scheme that differs with that of the first mapping scheme comprises vector magnitudes that differ.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first mapped values into which said first mapper maps the first representations of the first portion of the communication data comprise a first set of mapped values that exhibits first geometric differences therebetween, wherein the second mapped values into which said second representations of the second portion of the communication data comprise a second set of map values that exhibit second geometric differences therebetween.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first geometric differences between the mapped values of the first set and the second geometric differences between the mapped values of the second set are mutually exclusive.

9.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the mapping property exhibited by the second mapping scheme that differs with that of the first mapping scheme comprises second geometric differences that differ in lengths with lengths of the first geometric differences.

10.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mapping by which said first mapper maps the first representations and the mapping by which said second mapper maps the second representations are together selected to define a layered code having combined values that are applied to a respective one of the plurality of antenna transducers.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently Amended) In a communication system of claim 1 further having a receiving station for receiving the communication data once communicated upon the communication channel, a further improvement of apparatus for the receiving station for facilitating detection of the communication data, said apparatus comprising:

a modified maximum likelihood decoder, which exploits the difference in mapping properties between the first and second set, adapted to receive indications of the communication data communicated upon the communication channel and delivered to the receiving station, said maximum likelihood decoder for determining a maximum likelihood path that defines selection of values of the communication data, the maximum likelihood path selected from amongst a set of possible paths, each defining communication data value possibilities.

13.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the set of possible paths from amongst which said maximum likelihood decoder selects the maximum likelihood path comprises fewer than all of the possible paths.

14.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the set of possible paths from amongst which said maximum likelihood decoder selects the maximum likelihood path is selected responsive to at least the first mapping scheme pursuant to which said first mapper maps the first representations.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the set of possible paths from amongst which said maximum likelihood decoder selects the maximum likelihood path is further selected responsive to the second mapping scheme pursuant to which said second mapper maps the second representations.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~In a method of communicating in a communication system having a sending station for sending communication data upon a communication channel susceptible to distortion, an improvement of a method for placing the communication data in a form to facilitate the communication thereof upon the communication channel, said~~A method comprising:

mapping first representations of a first portion of ~~the~~ communication data into first mapped values according to a first mapping scheme;

mapping second representations of a second portion of the communication data into second mapped values according to a second mapping scheme, the second mapping scheme exhibiting a mapping property that differs with the first mapping scheme;

selecting the first mapped values and the second mapped values; and

transmitting only the first mapped values to a first antenna transducer among a plurality of antenna transducers and transmitting only the second mapped values to a second antenna transducer among a plurality of antenna transducers.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein ~~the~~a communication system further comprises a receiving station and wherein said method further comprises the operations of: transducing the selected first mapped values and the selected second mapped values, applied during said operation of selecting, into electromagnetic form and delivering, by way of the communication channel, the selected first and second mapped values, respectively, to the receiving station.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the operation of decoding indications of communication data received at the receiving station, the decoding comprising

determining a maximum likelihood path that defines selection of values of the communication data, the maximum likelihood path selected from amongst a set of possible paths, each defining communication data value possibilities.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the operation, prior to said operation of decoding, of selecting the set of possible paths from which the maximum likelihood path is formable.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the set selected during said operation of selecting the set is selected responsive to the first and second mapping schemes used during said operations of mapping.

21.   (Currently Ameded) ~~A system for communicating in a communication system having a sending station which sends communication data upon a communication channel susceptible to distortion, the system places the communication data in a form to facilitate the communication thereof upon the communication channel, the system~~An apparatus comprising:

        means for mapping first representations of a first portion of the communication data into first mapped values according to a first mapping scheme;

        means for mapping second representations of a second portion of ~~the~~ communication data into second mapped values according to a second mapping scheme, the second mapping scheme exhibiting a mapping property that differs with the first mapping scheme; and

        means for selecting the first mapped values and the second mapped values and transmitting the first mapped values and the second mapped values to only a respective one of a plurality of antenna transducers, and

        wherein the plurality of antenna transducers transduce the first mapped values and the second mapped values into electromagnetic form for communication upon ~~the~~a communication channel.

22.   (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a means for receiving and encoding the first portion of the communication data, according to a first

encoding technique to generate the first representations, the first representations comprise a first plurality of encoded values.

23.   (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a means for receiving and encoding the second portion of the communication data according to a second encoding technique to generate the second representations, the second representations comprise a second plurality of encoded values.

24.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first mapping scheme generates a first constellation set comprising a first plurality of symbol points and wherein the second mapping scheme generates a second constellation set comprising a second plurality of symbol points, wherein a first distance between each of the first plurality of symbol points is different from a second distance between each of the second plurality of symbol points.

25.   (New) The method of claim 16, wherein prior to transmitting only the first mapped values, generating, according to the first mapping scheme, a first constellation set comprising a first plurality of symbol points and generating, according to the second mapping scheme, a second constellation set comprising a second plurality of symbol points, wherein a first distance between each of the first plurality of symbol points is different from a second distance between each of the second plurality of symbol points.

26.   (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first mapping scheme generates a first constellation set comprising a first plurality of symbol points and wherein the second mapping scheme generates a second constellation set comprising a second plurality of symbol points, wherein a first distance between each of the first plurality of symbol points is different from a second distance between each of the second plurality of symbol points.

27.   (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first mapping scheme comprises a spherical modulation scheme and wherein the second mapping scheme comprises a lattice modulation scheme.

28.   (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the first mapping scheme comprises a spherical modulation scheme and wherein the second mapping scheme comprises a lattice modulation scheme.

29.   (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first mapping scheme comprises a spherical modulation scheme and wherein the second mapping scheme comprises a lattice modulation scheme.